



Department of Justice

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JURY CONVICTS WARREN COUNTY MAN OF COMMITTING \$1.35 MILLION MORTGAGE FRAUD

CINCINNATI – A U.S. District Court jury here today convicted Caesarea James, 58, formerly of Springboro, of one count each of wire fraud and mail fraud stemming from a mortgage fraud scheme involving the purchase of two residences worth more than \$1.35 million in Springboro, Ohio and Clarkston, Michigan in 2006.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Keith L. Bennett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Warren County Prosecutor Rachel Hutzler, and other participating agencies in the Greater Cincinnati Mortgage Fraud Task Force announced the verdict returned today following a trial that began on November 30, 2010 before U.S. District Judge Michael R. Barrett.

James was indicted on December 17, 2009. According to testimony presented by government witnesses during the trial, James misstated his income on loan applications and created false federal income tax returns in an attempt to back up his stated income when he bought the two properties. The lender foreclosed on the Ohio house in August 2007. James allegedly tried to purchase the house with a forged check at a sheriff's sale in June, 2009.

A jury previously convicted James on November 4, 2010 after a 2-day trial before Chief U.S. District Judge Susan Dlott of making false statements in bankruptcy for intentionally failing to disclose when he filed for bankruptcy in 2009 that he had filed bankruptcy three times before. Making false statements in bankruptcy is punishable by up to five years in prison.

Wire fraud and mail fraud are punishable by up to 20 years in prison on each count and each count also carries a possible fine of up to \$250 thousand. James will be sentenced by Judge Barrett on all counts of conviction at a later date.

Stewart commended the cooperative investigation by FBI agents and other task force members, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Tim Mangan and Christy Muncy, who are prosecuting the two cases.

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